

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 2009.04.06.b

**DATE:** Monday April 6, 2009

**LOCATION:** The accident took place in the Indian Ocean at Umtentweni, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

**NAME:** Odwa Hlanganisela

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 24-year-old male from Mthmbane, a part-time lifeguard for Port Shepstone's Ubuntu Lifeguard Services.



### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 88% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, April 9, 2009

**TIME:** Morning

**NARRATIVE:** The lifeguard was engaged in a training exercise when he lifted his hand, a signal that he needed help. There was speculation that something which looked like a shark was seen next to him.

Holgard Muller, co-owner of the lifeguard services, did not believe the lifeguard was taken by a shark. "There was no blood in the water where he disappeared, which proves that it was not a shark attack. Maybe he had a heart attack or waves hit him against the rocks or he had a blackout," he said. "We searched the whole day yesterday and today (Tuesday). Tomorrow we will continue searching until we find him," said Muller. He said that the search involved a SAPS helicopter, SAPS divers and divers from Port Edward, Shelly Beach and Netcare911.

**SPECIES:** Shark involvement was suspected but not confirmed.